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Note verbale dated 8 January 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit the report of the Argentine Republic on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 8 January 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Report of Argentina on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Argentina has long been deeply committed to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to the sovereign right of States to develop technology for exclusively peaceful purposes.

Argentina has made great advances in the peaceful applications of technology and, as its previous reports indicate, has implemented national and international control measures. Following the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina strengthened its implementation of such measures with regard to non-State actors by taking additional action at the regional and global levels.

With regard to paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina's strong commitment to non-proliferation is evident in its national legislation, which reflects the main relevant international instruments:

- Regarding biological weapons, Argentina ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 1979 by means of Act No. 21,938.
- Regarding chemical weapons, Argentina adopted the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction by means of Act No. 24,534 (1995) and ratified it on 2 October 1995.
- Regarding nuclear weapons, the use of radioactive material, including materials suitable for use in a nuclear weapon, is subject to the provisions of Act No. 24,804 (National Nuclear Activity Act), which was promulgated on 23 April 1997. Article 1 of the Act provides that "the implementation of nuclear policy shall strictly comply with the obligations assumed by the Argentine Republic under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and the Agreement between the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards; as well as with its commitments as a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and in view of the National Regime for the Control of Sensitive Exports (Decree No. 603/92)".

From a legal perspective, it should be noted that section 75, paragraph 22, of the Argentine Constitution states that "treaties and concordats have a higher hierarchy than laws". In the event of a contradiction between a law and an international treaty to which Argentina is a party, the provisions of the latter prevail.

Argentina also participates in the following export control regimes: the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee; the Missile Technology Control Regime; the Australia Group (chemical and biological weapons); and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

The above export control regimes have set criteria and drawn up lists for the control of transfers of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile-related materials.

Such lists have been incorporated in national legislation through Decree No. 603/92 and supplementary regulations. The Decree created the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel. The goal of the Commission is to ensure that all exported items are strictly controlled to ensure that they will be used exclusively for peaceful means. The Commission also establishes licence types and a series of procedures for processing licences, in accordance with different trade flows and the requirements of the international non-proliferation treaties and groups to which Argentina has subscribed. The Commission meets once a month or, in exceptional circumstances, at the request of its members, at the offices of the executive secretariat (Ministry of Defence).

The Commission comprises representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Trade Secretariat of the Ministry of Production and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship. In addition, depending on the nature of the transfer, the following bodies may also be represented: the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, in the case of nuclear exports; the National Space Activities Commission, in the case of exports of missile technology; and the Scientific and Technical Research Institute for Defence, in the case of exports of chemical and bacteriological substances and general military materiel and dual-use goods and technologies.

Decree No. 603/92 empowers the Commission to issue an advance export licence for sensitive materials and dual-use goods that could be used to produce weapons of mass destruction. The Commission is also empowered to grant import certificates in accordance with the provisions of the relevant regulations and to propose new legal standards.

In addition, of particular significance for the control of international transfers of sensitive or dual-use items is the general clause which forms part of the control regime pursuant to article 15 of Decree No. 603/92. It provides that exporters of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or missile-related materials, equipment, technologies, technical assistance and/or services not specified in the relevant statutes or annexes thereto shall be required to obtain an advance export licence when the Commission considers it appropriate.

The legislation and internal procedures that ensure this are indicated in the paragraphs that follow.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina has implemented the following measures.

(a) Nuclear materials

Argentina ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 1989. In 2011, it ratified the amendment to the Convention, which had been proposed in July 2005.

Argentina took an active part in the Nuclear Security Summits held between 2010 and 2016. Since the end of the series of Nuclear Security Summits, Argentina has been participating in the work of the Nuclear Security Contact Group.

Argentina ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 8 April 2016.

Regional measures

Argentina is a State party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco, signed in February 1967). At the twenty-fifth General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 14 February 2017 in Mexico

City, Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirmed their valuable commitment to prohibiting the development, acquisition, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons in the region, resulting in the establishment, in a densely populated region, of the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Bilateral measures

Argentina has developed an unprecedented degree of trust in the field of nuclear energy with the Federative Republic of Brazil through the signing of the Agreement for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, which established the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, the body charged with verifying the two countries' nuclear installations.

National measures

In Argentina, the use of radioactive material, including materials suitable for use in a nuclear weapon, is subject to the provisions of Act No. 24,804 (National Nuclear Activity Act), which was promulgated on 23 April 1997. Article 1 of the Act provides that "the implementation of nuclear policy shall strictly comply with the obligations assumed by the Argentine Republic under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and the Agreement between the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards; as well as with its commitments as a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and in view of the National Regime for the Control of Sensitive Exports (Decree No. 603/92)".

The Act also stipulates that the State authority responsible for regulating and monitoring nuclear activity in all areas relating to nuclear non-proliferation, radiological and nuclear safety, physical protection, and control and transport of nuclear and radioactive material is the Nuclear Regulatory Authority. For more information, see the section on paragraph 3 regarding nuclear activity.

(b) Biological materials

Argentina ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in 1979, by means of Act No. 21,938. In accordance with the outcomes of the 1986, 1991, 2006 and 2011 Review Conferences, Argentina has been complying strictly with its obligation to make an annual submission of confidence-building measures, beginning in 1991.

The Scientific and Technical Research Institute for Defence works year-round to broaden its reach and raise awareness among Argentine businesses of the need to abide by the commitments entered into and to communicate promptly confidential information about technological developments in Argentina that are relevant to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

The confidence-building measures set out data and information on biological activity relevant to the Convention. They include information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and poisoning, research results, laboratories, research centres and vaccine production facilities. They also include information on legislation, regulations, other legal measures and annual activities undertaken to raise awareness of use of knowledge.

The lists of animal, human and plant pathogens and toxins established by the Australia Group have been used as a basis for the confidence-building measures.

Regional measures

On 5 September 1991, Argentina, Brazil and Chile signed the Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons (Mendoza Commitment), by which the region was declared a zone free of chemical and biological weapons. The Declaration was subsequently acceded to by Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Mendoza Commitment and the commemoration of the International Day for the Foundation of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), held at the OPCW headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 2 May 2016, the signatories reaffirmed their full commitment not to develop, produce, acquire in any way, stockpile or retain, transfer directly or indirectly, or use chemical or biological weapons. On that day, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the OPCW headquarters.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru signed a joint declaration on the strengthening of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention on 10 July 1998 in Geneva. On 24 July 1998, the Political Declaration of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Bolivia and Chile as a Zone of Peace was signed in Ushuaia, Argentina. The Declaration provides that the signatory States will support, in the relevant forums, the full force and improvement of international instruments and mechanisms for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Furthermore, in the framework of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Argentina, together with other countries from the region, has presented a number of working papers, most recently at the Eighth Review Conference in November 2016. The paper in question calls upon States parties to promote the universalization of the Convention, and was sponsored by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

On 17 December 2007, in the framework of MERCOSUR, a Working Group on Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was established. The Working Group is intended to facilitate the exchange of information and possible harmonization of legislation on national inspections of sensitive and dual-use goods and technologies in orde. to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

National measures

Animal and plant health and agrifood quality

The National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality was established by Act No. 23.899 of 1990 (and amendments thereto). Responsible for implementing the policy on animal health, its primary mission is to plan and implement measures to prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases, including those that can be transmitted to humans, and to exercise comprehensive health and hygiene control over all animal products, while taking into account advances in health technology and the most up-to-date regulatory procedures applying to them and to products for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of animal diseases.

Within the Ministry of Agro-industry, the division for the coordination of pharmacological, veterinary and food products for animals of the National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality oversees the authorization of facilities that prepare and store biological products, with a view to preventing some of the diseases whose aetiological agents are included in the lists. These facilities are subject to inspection by the National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality.

Handling of foot-and-mouth disease viruses is regulated by Decision No. 219/95 (and amendments thereto), while Decision No. E 609/2017 (repealing Decisions No. 351/2006 and No. 111/2010) establishes requirements for the authorization of facilities that produce antigens and foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, as well as biosecurity standards and requirements for the registration, production and quality control of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines.

Decision No. 505/98 (and amendments thereto) contains procedural guidelines for inspections to be used by the staff of the laboratories of the National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality. Decision No. 531/99 covers the manual on procedure for the national plan for the control and eradication of brucellosis, porcine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis.

Act No. 25.127 of 1999 (and amendments thereto) establishes the legal regime for ecological, biological or organic production, and is regulated by Decree No. 97/2001.

Decision No. 488/2002 (and amendments thereto) establishes a system for preventive action whenever animal or plant health, or agrifood quality, has been compromised, with a resulting risk to human health. The decision authorizes the closure of facilities and the confiscation of materials, and its scope includes trade at the federal level.

Decision No. 422/2003 (and amendments thereto) provides for the National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality to adapt domestic procedures to international rules governing systems for the notification of animal diseases, epidemiological monitoring and continuous epidemiological follow-up, risk analysis and health emergencies, in accordance with a regulatory provision governing all aspects of efforts to protect against and combat diseases.

Decision No. 725/2005 (and amendments thereto) sets out the general requirements for the movement of animals prone to foot-and-mouth disease, brucellosis, classical swine fever, Aujeszky's disease and ticks, and for concentrations of livestock; and for the entry of animals from countries or areas free of foot-and-mouth disease that do not practise vaccination. It also provides for the division of the country into regions for the specific purpose of the movement of live animals, in connection with the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases.

Pursuant to Act No. 27.233 of 2015 (and amendments thereto) animal and plant health; the prevention, control and eradication of diseases and pests affecting national forestry, agricultural and livestock production; flora and fauna; the quality of raw materials produced by crop-farming, forestry, livestock-raising and fishing activities; agrifood production, safety and quality; specific agricultural and livestock raising inputs and the control of chemical residues and chemical and microbiological contaminants in food; and the domestic and international trade in such products and by-products are declared to be matters of national interest.

In addition, Act No. 20.247 of 1973 (and amendments thereto) is designed to promote efficient seed production and marketing, safeguard the identity and quality of the seeds that producers acquire and protect the ownership of phytogenetic creations.

Act No. 24.376 of 1994 approves the International Plant Protection Convention.

Decision No. 98/2003 regulates the operations of laboratories performing diagnostic tests for citrus nursery plants and/or their parts, and Decision No. 55/2003 establishes and amends phytosanitary requirements for imports of plants, their parts, fertilizers, means of organic sustenance and/or growth, biological control organisms,

products, by-products and derivatives of plant origin or goods and/or inputs with ingredients of plant origin.

Genetically modified organisms

Argentina has regulated activities related to genetically modified organisms for agricultural use since 1991. Decision No. 124/91 established the National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology as an evaluation and consultation body within the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. In its early days, the Commission was in charge of the whole regulatory and assessment process, with the administrative support of a unit of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries called the technical coordination division of the National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology. Its composition was subsequently amended by Decision No. 398/2008.

Another important step was marked by Decision No. 244/2004, establishing the biotechnology office within the Ministry of Agro-industry, responsible for advising and assisting in the management of activities related to biotechnology and biosafety, in particular authorizations for releases into the environment and the marketing of genetically modified plant or animal organisms created through agricultural and aquacultural activities.

Decision No. 701/2011 (and amendments thereto) establishes the procedures for the submission and evaluation of requests for the experimental release of commercially unapproved genetically modified plants.

Decision No. 241/2012 (and amendments thereto) establishes the regime for the authorization of activities carried out in biosafety greenhouses with genetically modified plants.

Transport

The transport of hazardous materials is regulated by Act No. 24.449 of 1994 (and amendments thereto), governed by Decree No. 779/95 and its complementary provisions. These rules regulate the use of public roads and apply to the movement of persons, animals and land vehicles on public roads, and to all activities related to movement.

Joint decision No. 663/1999 (General Administration of Gross Income) and No. 760/1999 (National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality) addresses health controls for passengers and luggage.

Decision No. 299/1999 sets out procedures for the control of persons, accompanied luggage and vehicles at points of entry into Argentina, with a view to keeping out sources of disease.

Decision No. 145/2003 approves the MERCOSUR Technical Regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances and Diagnostic Specimens, incorporating it into existing national legal regulation.

Decision No. 1789/2006 authorizes the shipment to and from the country of certain biological materials for diagnostic or research purposes, for participation in external quality-assurance programmes purposes and for epidemiological surveillance carried out by institutions responsible for disease prevention and control policies.

Decision No. 714/2010 establishes a national plan to prevent the entry and transmission of pests and diseases in regulated waste (amended and complemented by Decision No. 401/2014 of the National Service for Health and Agrifood Quality).

For further information on export controls, see the section relating to paragraph 6.

(c) Chemical materials

Argentina was one of the first signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention, incorporated into domestic legislation in 1995 by Act No. 24.534 and ratified on 2 October of the same year. In ratifying the Convention, Argentina stated that it did not possess and had never possessed chemical weapons or related facilities and had established no programmes for their development.

Argentina fully complies with its obligations under the Convention, especially as regards controlled substance declarations and OPCW inspections of the national chemical industry.

Argentina actively participates in the OPCW Executive Council, representing the Latin American and Caribbean Group along with six other countries, and plays an active part in the Conference of States Parties and the annual meetings of national authorities. It also has an expert on the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

It should be recalled that Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter was the Director-General of OPCW between 2002 and 2010.

Regional measures

With regard to regional measures, on 5 September 1991, as mentioned above, Argentina, Brazil and Chile signed the Mendoza Commitment, declaring the region a zone free of chemical and biological weapons, and were subsequently joined as signatories by Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its signature, and as part of the celebrations for the International Day for the Foundation of OPCW in The Hague, on 2 May 2016, the States signatories and acceding States reaffirmed their full commitment not to develop, produce, acquire in any way, stockpile or retain, transfer directly or indirectly or use chemical or biological weapons. On that occasion, a commemorative plaque was unveiled at the OPCW headquarters.

In addition, on 17 December 2007, the MERCOSUR Working Group on the Prevention of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was established. The Working Group is intended to facilitate the exchange of information and possible harmonization of legislation on national inspections of sensitive and dual-use goods and technologies in order prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

National measures

In accordance with article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Argentina, by Decree No. 920/97, created a National Authority called the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It is composed of an Executive Secretariat and a Board, comprising representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, the Ministry of Production, the Ministry of Defence and the Scientific and Technical Defence Research Institute.

The National Authority is responsible for implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention in Argentina and liaises with OPCW, the other States parties to the Convention and the relevant public and private institutions. It monitors compliance with the requirements of the Convention in all matters relating to declarations, inspections, verification, the organization of training courses and the adaptation of domestic administrative and legal regulations to its provisions.

As an additional way to promote the proper implementation of the obligations of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Argentina, the National Authority, together with the Secretariat of University Policies of the Ministry of Education, signed Memorandum of Understanding No. 978 of 2013 on responsible education and

training for university teachers, graduates and students in the field of chemical science and technology, establishing a strategic agreement to implement the national project on education in the responsible and safe use of chemical sciences and technologies in the service of the scientific, economic and social development of Argentina. The overall objectives of the national project are:

- To improve knowledge of the role of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the national implementing legislation
- To help to raise awareness of the dual nature of the use of knowledge in chemical sciences and the risks that this entails
- To promote a culture of responsible use of technical and scientific knowledge

On 22 April 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the Ministry of Defence signed a memorandum of understanding on education and training of members of the national defence education system regarding the Chemical Weapons Convention, designed to introduce the members of the national defence system to the obligations under the Convention.

Through Decision No. 904/98 of the former Secretariat of Industry, Trade and Mining, a registry for industries whose activity is covered by the Chemical Weapons Convention was created within what is now the Ministry of Production. The decision requires that all individuals or entities that are legally responsible for a facility that carries out activities involving the chemical substances listed in schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, as well as facilities that produce the organic substances listed in the Convention, submit declarations to the National Authority. The National Authority prepares the declarations that it submits each year to OPCW based on these declarations, the data in the registry and the information provided by the Directorate General of Customs.

The provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention were implemented in the national legal system by Act No. 26.247 of 2007. This act is fully comprehensive, including national and international inspections and the submission of declarations by companies in the chemical industry and providing for administrative and criminal penalties in cases of violations.

Decree No. 826/2011 established the national register of property seized and confiscated during criminal proceedings in the Secretariat for Registration.

Export controls

Regarding export controls, the Joint Decision of 22 January 1998 of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, makes annex B, containing the substances in schedules 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, part of the export controls of the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel (Decree No. 603/92). In this connection, the National Commission is responsible for taking the necessary administrative precautions to prevent transfers of chemicals in schedules 1 and 2 to States not party to the Convention. General Decision No. 354/1999 of the Federal Administration of Public Income's Directorate-General of Customs includes the Chemical Weapons Convention schedules in its system for the control of sensitive exports, identifying each substance by its Southern Common Market common nomenclature and integrated customs tariff reference.

Pursuant to Decree No. 37/2001, certain functions were reallocated: the National Arms Registry and the Directorate General of Military Manufacturing was made responsible for the control and monitoring of acts involving both items

classified as "military weapons" and "civilian weapons" and items containing gunpowders, explosives and related materials.

Imports

As regards import controls, under Federal Administration of Public Income General Decision No. 1892 of 1 June 2005, chemicals in schedules 1 and 2 of the Convention were added as annex XII "B" to the control of sensitive imports list. These substances are included in that annex as part of the list of explosives and related materials whose import is subject to prior authorization by the Executive, subject to the intervention of the National Agency of Controlled Materials. When processing each import request, the Agency conducts a technical analysis of the substances to be imported and issues an import licence, in accordance with Provision No. 270/2005 of 8 November 2005. As regards the control of imports of chemicals in schedule 3 of the Convention, Note No. 18 of 15 July 2016 of the Directorate General of Customs provides that the Agency shall require the presentation of the certificate of registration with the Chemical Weapons Registry, through the Malvina Computer System, at the time of the actual processing of imports of substances listed in schedule 3 of the Chemical Weapons Convention and of mixtures (containing a concentration equal to or greater than 30 per cent).

The Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development also fulfils functions relating to the control of chemical materials through its Unit for Chemical Substances and Products. The Unit coordinates the activities of the National Directorate for Environmental Management of the Secretariat in the field of chemical substances and products within the scope of its competence.

The Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development accordingly ensures compliance with the commitments made under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, signed by Argentina in May 2001, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, approved by Argentina in July 2000 by Act No. 25,278.

(d) Counter-terrorism

Argentina has implemented a series of counter-terrorism measures aimed at combating this scourge which threatens international peace and security. These are reported annually to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, in compliance with the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001).

Mention should also be made of Argentina's membership in the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism and the strict observance by the Argentine Government of the measures adopted by specialized international organizations, in particular the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization in all matters relating to security and safety and to matters connected with resolution 1540 (2004).

In addition, Argentina has been a member of the Financial Action Task Force since 2000. In June 2017, Dr. Santiago Otamendi of Argentina became its President.

Argentina has actively participated in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism since 2010.

National measures

With regard to money-laundering and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Argentina has made progress in the adoption of a complex normative system.

On 13 April 2000, Argentina adopted Act No. 25,246 on concealment and laundering of assets of criminal origin, promulgated by the Executive on 5 May 2000 (Decree 370/00). This Act created the Financial Intelligence Unit, to analyse, process and transmit information for the purpose of preventing and deterring the laundering of the proceeds of a series of serious crimes. Initially, its functions were primarily administrative.

On 13 June 2007, Act No. 26,268 on unlawful terrorist associations and financing of terrorism was adopted, having been promulgated by the Executive on 4 July of the same year. It extended the mandate of the Financial Intelligence Unit to include the analysis of suspicious transactions potentially connected with the financing of terrorism, for the purpose of preventing and deterring such crimes. Article 2 of this Act establishes the incorporation into the Penal Code as article 213 ter, chapter VI of title VIII of the Penal Code, Volume Two, a punishment for those who "possess military weapons, explosives, chemical or bacteriological agents or any other instrument suited to endangering the life or physical integrity of an indeterminate number of persons".

In 2008, the issuance of Decree No. 2226/2008 enabled the head of the Financial Intelligence Unit to act as plaintiff in proceedings relating to the offences covered by Act No. 25,246 (and amendments thereto), where warranted.

Decree No. 1936/2010 (and amendments thereto) gave the Financial Intelligence Unit new and important responsibilities, such as coordinating, at the national, provincial and municipal levels, all public bodies related to the prevention of money-laundering, and representing the country in international organizations.

Act No. 26,683 of 2011 (and amendments thereto) updated the definitions of the offence of money-laundering.

On 22 December 2011, Act No. 26,734 (and amendments thereto) was adopted, updating the definitions of the offence of financing of terrorism. On the same day, the Government adopted Act No. 26,733, which incorporated into the Argentine Penal Code the offences of market manipulation and the use of privileged information.

On 14 June 2012, the issuance of Decree 918/2012 further strengthened the tools at the country's disposal to combat the crime of financing terrorism, by adapting national provisions to bring them into line with the international regulations in force, in particular United Nations Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) (and subsequent resolutions. The Decree provided that upon receipt of a suspicious transaction report concerning financing of terrorism — provided that the report is well-founded — the Financial Intelligence Unit may order, through a reasoned decision, the immediate administrative freezing of the assets or funds of the target of the report. The measure must then be endorsed, rectified or revoked by the competent federal judge.

Similarly, on 29 November 2012, the adoption of Act No 26,831 (and amendments thereto) resulted in a radical reform of the functioning of the capital market, ending "self-regulation" and establishing the National Securities Commission as the only monitoring agency for public offering in the country, thus eliminating secrecy in the exchange of information between regulators.

Decree 360/2016 established under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights a national coordination programme for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The mandate of this programme is to reorganize, coordinate and strengthen the national system to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, in view of the specific risks to the country, as well as the global demands for more effective compliance with the international obligations and recommendations established by United Nations conventions and the standards of the Financial Action Task Force. In that regard, starting in 2017, under the national coordination programme for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, there will be quarterly meetings of the mechanism for the assessment of risk related to the financing of terrorism and proliferation, the aim of which is to continuously assess national risk of financing of terrorism and proliferation in Argentina.

In relation to paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina has implemented the following measures.

In Argentina, the use of radioactive material, including materials suitable for use in nuclear weapons, is subject to the provisions of Act No. 24,804 (National Nuclear Activity Act), which was promulgated on 23 April 1997. Article 1 of the Act provides that "the implementation of nuclear policy shall strictly comply with the obligations assumed by the Argentine Republic under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards; as well as with its commitments as a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and in view of the National Regime for the Control of Sensitive Exports (Decree 603/92)".

The Act also stipulates that the State authority responsible for regulating and monitoring nuclear activity in all areas relating to nuclear non-proliferation, radiological and nuclear safety, physical protection, control and transport of nuclear and radioactive material is the Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

The remit of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority is to establish, develop and implement a regulatory regime for all nuclear activities carried out in the Argentine Republic, to ensure that nuclear activities are not carried out for unlawful purposes and to prevent intentional acts that might have serious radiological consequences or lead to the unauthorized removal of nuclear materials or other materials or equipment subject to regulation and control.

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority sets the standards for the implementation of such activities. Its duties in this regard include: granting, suspending and revoking licences, permits or authorizations relating to nuclear activity; carrying out regulatory inspections and evaluations at facilities under its regulatory supervision; and imposing penalties in the event of failure to implement its regulations.

All individuals or entities must be in possession of a licence — issued on the basis of the relevant facility-design questionnaire — authorizing uranium mining and concentration activities and attesting to the safety of research reactors, major accelerators and radioactive facilities, including facilities for the management of nuclear waste or discharge, and nuclear applications used for medical and industrial purposes.

Under the national regulatory regime, all responsibility for the radiological and nuclear safety of a nuclear facility lies with the organization (owner or operator)

responsible for designing, building, commissioning and operating the facility concerned, or for withdrawing it from service.

Moreover, the regulatory regime extends to non-proliferation safeguards and guarantees. To that end, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority established the Argentine Regime for Accounting and Control of Nuclear-related Materials, Equipment and Facilities, through Regulation AR 10.14.1 (on guarantees of non-diversion of nuclear materials and nuclear-related material, facilities and equipment).

The central pillar of the Argentine Regime for Accounting and Control of Nuclear-related Materials, Equipment and Facilities is the independent verification by the National Regulatory Authority of materials, equipment and technologies subject to safeguards, combined with containment and monitoring procedures. The verification process requires that operators make annual declarations of their stocks and inventories.

On the basis of on these declarations, the National Regulatory Authority identifies materials-inventory areas within each facility. The purpose of establishing these areas is to ensure that inventories and nuclear-material flows (entry and exit to and from each facility) are accurately recorded. The physical inventory-taking process complies with the latest relevant international standards. Inventories are verified through periodic facility inspections carried out by the National Regulatory Authority.

At the bilateral level, the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exclusively Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy of 1991 established the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, which is responsible for implementing the Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials. At the international level, the Agreement between the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Application of Safeguards (Quadripartite Agreement) is in force, providing comprehensive safeguards. Through that Agreement, IAEA applies safeguards in both countries.

As regards physical protection, Argentina is a State party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which is mainly concerned with the international transport of such material, and which was approved by Act No. 23,620 of 2 November 1988. At the national level, the National Regulatory Authority established Regulation AR 10.13.1 (on the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities), which sets out the general criteria applicable to protected materials and facilities and for the protection of transported material against robbery, theft, sabotage or the unauthorized use of nuclear material. In addition, Argentina ratified the amendment to the above-mentioned Convention on 15 November 2011.

Lastly, Regulation AR 10.16.1 stipulates the minimum safety requirements for the transport of radioactive materials. The purpose of these requirements is to protect persons, property and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation during transport. The Regulation applies to all forms of land, water or air transport of radioactive materials that do not form an integral part of the vehicle or craft in question, including transport used to carry radioactive materials on an ad hoc basis. Argentina also adheres to the criteria set forth in the IAEA Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive material (1996, revised).

At the subregional level, the Domestic Security Department signed agreements Nos. 7/2000 and 8/2000 with the MERCOSUR member States and Bolivia and Chile, supplementing the general Plan on Mutual Cooperation and Coordination for Regional Security with regard to illicit trafficking in nuclear and/or radioactive

material. Through those agreements, the States agreed to exchange information, develop procedures for detection and response and train the security forces of the countries of the region.

Measures relating to chemical and biological materials are described in sections (b) and (c), corresponding to the measures implemented in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004).

With regard to the measures related to paragraph 3(c), Argentina updated its national public security legislation with Decree 1993/2010, which established the Ministry of Security. Decree No. 13/2015, article 22 bis 15, mandates the Ministry of Security to fulfil the specific competencies set out in Act No. 24,059 on domestic security, and article 22 bis 19 specifies that it will intervene in the application of Act No. 22,352, concerning border controls at international border crossings, border centres and integrated monitoring areas at borders with neighbouring countries.

A notable development in this regard is the creation of the Borders Secretariat, established through Decree 15/2016, under the auspices of the Ministry of Security. This office is in charge of coordinating the border security system (border control and surveillance of the border area), and, by Decree 27/2017 it has been made the Chair of the National Commission for Security Zones, responsible for the regulation and coordination of the border security areas of the Argentine Republic.

In response to the need to enhance border integration, facilitate the passage of persons, make international trade more flexible and prevent complex transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling, Argentina created the National Borders Commission, through Decree 68/2017. The Commission operates under the auspices of the Executive Office of the Cabinet of Ministers and comprises all the bodies with functions or competencies relating to border control. This Commission serves as the regulator and coordinator for the operation of international border crossings, border centres and integrated monitoring areas at borders with neighbouring countries.

Decree 68/2017 stipulates that the security forces attached to the Ministry of Security are responsible for providing the security and police assistance required by the border control agencies: these security forces are the Argentine National Gendarmerie, Airport Security Police and the Argentine Coastguard. There are currently 156 international border crossings, both land and river, for authorized entry into the Argentine Republic — all of them under the operational supervision of the Ministry of Security.

In this connection, the Borders Secretariat of the national Ministry of Security is one of the agencies that comprises the National Borders Commission, which is responsible for ensuring the effective presence of the State at all border security areas, and acts as the overall coordination body for international crossings, with its duties including the issuance of alerts and the implementation of precautionary border security measures for chemical, biological and nuclear materials.

In addition, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Department of the Argentine Federal Police, in its capacity as the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, provides the National Migration Directorate with systematic and ongoing updates to the lists of citizens with national and international arrest warrants. The lists are consulted during immigration checks at the border and during prevention and monitoring carried out within border security areas and along the State roads of the Argentine Republic, in line with government directives to the Argentine National Gendarmerie and the Argentine Coastguard.

With regard to prevention, the National Directorate for Criminal Intelligence of the Ministry of Security works closely with the security forces, analysing intelligence

and issuing alerts regarding factors, facts and third-party actions that create vulnerabilities and have a negative impact on border controls of the arrival and departure of sensitive materials and controlled items and their potential means of delivery.

At the subregional level, the Borders Secretariat participates in, inter alia, the specialized working group on criminal offences, under the auspices of the meetings of the Ministers for Internal Affairs and Security of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile. Through this forum, Argentina approved the procedural guide for the control of radioactive materials at control points, signed at Isla Margarita (Venezuela), on 7 November 2013.

Argentina adopted the MERCOSUR framework agreement for the establishment of bipartite border security zones. The aim of this agreement is to regulate the shared border areas where bilateral coordination takes place through the establishment of bipartite border security zones. The creation of these zones should support the optimization and standardization of mechanisms for the exchange of information and mutual assistance in security matters. Argentina has to date signed two agreements, one with Bolivia and one with Paraguay (the latter is already operational), and is negotiating similar agreements with Brazil and Uruguay.

Through these regional mechanisms, the Argentine State is demonstrating its commitment to the exchange of information, the development of procedures, the updating of national regulations, the detection of and response to suspicious activities, and the ongoing training of the federal and provincial security forces.

The specific activities of the four federal security forces attached to the Ministry of Security include maintaining a presence at the existing 246 points for the entry and departure of persons, including ports and airports, into and from the Argentine Republic.

In particular, the Argentine National Gendarmerie controls and monitors 105 authorized international border crossings to prevent, inter alia, illegal trade in materials and/or nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Argentine National Gendarmerie is responsible for monitoring the international border, as well as the border security area located along the country's 9,376-kilometre-long terrestrial border.

The Argentine National Gendarmerie also carries out vehicle checks on the State roads, and federal patrols and investigations throughout the country. It has exclusive responsibility for security in connection with the transport of radioactive and nuclear materials, monitoring the entry and exit of cargo (including hazardous goods) and of passengers transiting through the national territory, and is responsible for guarding the country's nuclear power plants.

The Argentine National Gendarmerie has warning systems that operate through its network of conventional and satellite telephones and very high frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) radio, and a computerized system for criminal records. It also has physical inspection stations at all of the international border crossings, with access to the system for alerting the emergency units and guard stations of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, the National Atomic Energy Commission and the various bodies, both national and provincial, with responsibility in the area of chemical and biological substances.

For its part, the Argentine Coastguard has operational units posted all along the seacoast and on the rivers and lakes, and controls 51 points of entry into and departure from Argentine territory, as well as carrying out certain devolved immigration functions at 18 ports without adjacent borders. In a specific security situation, it acts jointly with the other federal and provincial security forces and, like the Argentine

National Gendarmerie, it works in collaboration with the customs and immigration authorities.

Both in the ports and at the Paraguay-Paraná waterway, the Argentine Coastguard checks all vessels that enter and travel through, requiring them to present the ship's clearance papers on arrival or departure, with the particulars of the ship, including registration number, flag, previous port, home port, names of crew members and passengers and their documentation. In turn, and in collaboration with the Directorate General of Customs, it requires presentation of the documentation on the cargo.

Under Maritime Ordinance 01/90, on notification to be presented in advance of the arrival or departure of ships transporting hazardous goods, Coastguard stations in whose jurisdiction there are ports that handle hazardous goods take cognizance of such shipments in advance and authorize them upon presentation of a declaration of their contents, whether intended for entry, exit or transit. Checks include verification of whether the goods are packed, marked and labelled in accordance with the provisions of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

The Argentine Coastguard is the agency responsible for detaining, investigating and seizing shipments suspected of containing weapons of mass destruction, by virtue of the powers granted to it by Act No. 18,398 (Mission and functions of the Coastguard).

The INTERPOL Unit of the Argentine Federal Police, in its capacity as the INTERPOL National Central Bureau, plays a role in investigations and the dissemination of national and international warnings. The Argentine Coastguard also has a section for environmental emergencies and radiological security, under the Federal Superintendency of Firefighters, and a special hazards brigade.

With regard to weapons of mass destruction, Argentina continues to use the work methodology described in its 2007 national report. Any warnings required will be transmitted through the Civil Protection communications network, organized by the communications coordination unit of the National Response Directorate, which operates under the auspices of the Subdivision for Civil Protection of the Ministry of Civil Protection and Comprehensive Approaches to Emergencies and Disasters.

Civil society is involved in the management of incidents involving hazardous materials, as there is a cooperation agreement with the Argentine Chamber for Automotive Transportation of Hazardous Materials in force. Through this cooperation agreement, training in the control of hazardous materials and the handling of related incidents is provided to federal security forces staff (particularly the staff of the national Gendarmerie, which is responsible for controlling not only the land borders, but also the State roads) and firefighters, those belonging to both provincial police forces and the Associations of Volunteer Firefighters.

Furthermore, the Communications Office of the Secretariat operates a toll-free telephone service that offers technical assistance in relation to emergencies involving hazardous materials. The telephone line is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and provides assistance to transporters, emergency response personnel and the general public regarding the initial actions to be taken in the event of accidents and incidents involving such materials. This support system, which is completely free, is called the Centre for Information on Transport Emergencies.

Risk scenarios are developed jointly between the various national directorates that make up the structure of subdepartments mentioned above, in conjunction with State technical scientific bodies, researchers of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council and universities, among others.

Finally, the Subdivision for Civil Protection has as its main function the planning of the State response, which involves coordinating the involvement of the various participating actors, and developing mitigating action.

With regard to paragraph 6 of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina also participates in the following export control regimes: the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee; the Missile Technology Control Regime; the Australia Group (chemical and biological weapons); and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

The above export control regimes have set criteria and drawn up lists for the control of transfers of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile-related materials. Such lists have been incorporated in national legislation through Decree 603/92 and supplementary regulations. The Decree created the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel. The purpose of the Commission is to ensure that all exported items are strictly controlled to ensure that they will be used exclusively for peaceful means. The Commission also establishes licence types and a series of procedures for processing licences, in accordance with different trade flows and the requirements of the international non-proliferation treaties and groups to which Argentina has subscribed. The Commission meets once a month or, in exceptional circumstances, at the request of one of its members, at the offices of the executive secretariat (Ministry of Defence).

The Commission comprises representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Trade Secretariat of the Ministry of Production and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship. In addition, depending on the nature of the export, the following bodies may also be represented: the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, in the case of nuclear exports; the National Space Activities Commission, in the case of exports of missile technology; or the Scientific and Technical Research Institute for Defence, in the case of exports of chemical and bacteriological substances and general military materiel and dual-use goods and technologies. In turn, the Intelligence Secretariat alerts all the relevant agencies, each in its specific area of competence, about any factors, events or methods that could lead to the evasion of export controls or assistance in evading them, as well as trans-shipment, re-export or transit of materials presenting a proliferation risk. It also alerts them to possible factors facilitating illicit trade in sensitive materials and illegal activity on the part of brokers.

Decree 603/92 empowers the Commission to issue an advance export licence for sensitive materials and dual-use goods that could be used to produce weapons of mass destruction. The Commission is also empowered by Decree 1291/1993 to grant an import certificate, which is to be requested by the exporter before goods intended for shipment to Argentina leave the country in which they are currently located.

Decree 657/95 empowers the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel to require an end-user certificate before issuing the advance export licence or the import certificate, in order to ensure that the goods to be transferred cannot be used for proliferation-related purposes. The legislation expressly stipulates that requirement for sales of military materiel, but the Commission also requires it for sensitive materials and dual-use goods.

Decree 603/92 and its accompanying regulations establish lists of materials, equipment and technologies for which an advance licence is required. They are set forth in the following annexes:

- Annex A (Missile Technology Control Regime);
- Annex B (Australia Group and Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction)

- Annex C (Nuclear Suppliers Group and Zangger Committee)
- Annex D (Military materiel — Wassenaar Arrangement)
- Annex E (Dual use — Wassenaar Arrangement)

The above lists are updated periodically to meet international criteria. Decree 1291/1993 established a more flexible administrative mechanism for the periodic updating of the lists of goods subject to control by the Commission, which may be effected through a joint decision of the ministries that make up the Commission.

In addition, of particular significance for the control of international transfers of sensitive or dual-use materials is the general clause. The clause, which forms part of the control regime pursuant to article 15 of Decree 603/92, provides that exporters of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or missile-related materials, equipment, technologies, technical assistance and/or services not specified in the relevant statutes or annexes thereto shall be required to obtain an advance export licence when the Commission considers it appropriate.

Moreover, some transactions involving nuclear matters are conditional on the existence of a bilateral agreement on nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes with the country concerned. The agreement must also stipulate that:

(a) The relevant country is a party to the IAEA safeguards agreements;

(b) It expressly undertakes not to use the material exported by Argentina for purposes related to nuclear explosives;

(c) It undertakes to adopt appropriate security measures for the material exported by Argentina;

(d) It undertakes to seek the consent of the Argentine Government for subsequent transfer of the material.

Further to the provisions of paragraph 7 of resolution 1540 (2004), the international, regional and subregional cooperation activities undertaken by Argentina are set out in the section on paragraph 9.

With regard to paragraph 8 (a) of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina is a party to the international legal instruments that form the pillars of the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction regime: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by means of Act No. 24,448; the Chemical Weapons Convention; and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

As a State party to the aforementioned instruments, Argentina has traditionally promoted their universalization. For example, at the Eighth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, held in November 2016, Argentina called upon States parties to promote the universalization of the Convention. The working paper was sponsored by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

Argentina has expressed the repeated hope at every appropriate opportunity that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty will enter into force as soon as possible and that negotiations will begin promptly on a legally binding instrument banning the production of fissile material that can be used in nuclear weapons.

Pursuant to paragraph 8 (c) of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina participates actively in the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, both as a State party and as a member of the Board of Governors. With regard to OPCW, Argentina participates actively both as a State party and as a member of the Executive Council.

For information about international cooperation, see also the section on paragraph 9.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 1540 (2004), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship has publicized through the media the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) and the related measures adopted by Argentina.

The ministries and State agencies represented in the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel hold seminars and conferences to raise awareness of the issue of proliferation and the security implications.

In this connection, the executive secretariat of the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel is engaged in regular dialogue with exporters, with a view to raising their awareness of the risks of proliferation.

In 2017, Argentina participated, for the second consecutive year, in the industrial segment of the OPCW Associate Programme, providing placements for two associates at a chemical plant in Argentina.

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1540 (2004), which calls for dialogue and cooperation, Argentina has implemented the following measures.

South-South cooperation

Together with other countries in the region, Argentina organizes joint capacity-building activities for experts on nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological issues and chemical emergencies, with a focus on South-South partnerships.

Since 2010, training workshops have been held for officials from various State agencies in Chile and Peru to help them to identify and detect sensitive and dual-use materials.

In 2013, in the framework of the Africa and South America mechanism, Argentina held a workshop in Buenos Aires on South-South cooperation in the field of arms control and dual-use technologies. Political and technical experts from the national implementing authorities of the member States of the mechanism, namely, Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela and Zambia, took part in the workshop.

Argentina is also an assistance provider in the framework of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). In that connection, Argentina responded to requests for assistance from Grenada and Guyana in 2015. Such assistance is evidence of the strong commitment of Argentina to the region.

Cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Argentina is firmly committed to supporting international cooperation efforts aimed at implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention. To that end, Argentina has offered to support the capacity-building efforts of other national authorities in the region, dispatch Argentine intersectoral work teams, train foreign experts in Argentina, and develop specific training courses and bilateral projects, among others.

Argentina and OPCW conduct joint training activities for the member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

For the past six years, Argentina has been holding advanced assistance and protection courses for countries in the region. The courses are organized by the National Authority for the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention together with OPCW and the Special Hazards Brigade of the Federal Superintendency

of Firefighters. About 20 first responders from Latin American and Caribbean countries take part in each course. Previous participants have remarked on the quality of the course materials and the teaching.

In 2017, the second regional course on the safety of chemical laboratories was held, together with OPCW and the National Institute of Industrial Technology. Some 20 experts from the member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group took part in the first course, which was held in 2015.

In 2017, Argentina participated, for the second consecutive year, in the industry segment of the OPCW Associate Programme, providing placements for two associates at a chemical plant in Argentina.

At the national level, a memorandum of understanding was signed in 2013 between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the Ministry of Education, establishing a national education project on the responsible and safe use of chemical sciences and technologies. The primary aim of the project is to ensure that basic information on the issue is incorporated into relevant university courses. In 2015, a similar agreement was signed with the Ministry of Defence, and a memorandum of understanding with provisions comparable to those of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Ministry of Security has been negotiated.

The project attracted the attention of OPCW, and the Executive Secretary of the National Authority for the Implementation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons was invited to share the country's experience in various international forums.

Outreach activities regarding chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons

Chemical and biological weapons

In April 2015, a commemoration ceremony was held in Buenos Aires to mark the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons. The then Deputy Foreign Minister presided over the ceremony, which was attended by national and foreign authorities.

In May 2016, a ceremony was held in The Hague to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Mendoza Commitment, by which the subregion was declared a cooperation zone free of chemical and biological weapons. The commemoration took place during the celebrations to mark the International Day for the Foundation of OPCW.

In April 2017, a commemoration ceremony was held in Argentina to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Nuclear weapons

To promote the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in the region, in August 2014 Argentina and Chile co-hosted a workshop and tabletop exercise in the framework of the Response and Mitigation Working Group of the Global Initiative. The 2014 radiological emergency management exercise, nicknamed "Paihuen", focused on demonstrating best practices for inter-agency communication and coordination in the event of a criminal act involving radiation sources. Both countries presented their nationals plans and discussed their capacity, policies and procedures for exchanging relevant information among agencies and with regional and international partners, relevant international organizations and the general public, as well as bilateral cooperation to respond to nuclear security events through discussions based on scenarios and working groups. Over 100 participants from more than 10 countries and international organizations took part in the event.

In September 2017, a second exercise, nicknamed "Paihuen 2017", took place in Bariloche, Argentina. Once again, the exercise was organized together with Chile. The scenario selected was more challenging than that used in 2014 and consisted of a radiological emergency during a public event in Bariloche caused by the explosion of a radiological dispersal device, the work of a transnational terrorist group operating in both countries.

"Paihuen 2017" included tabletop exercises, group debates and activities on the ground. During the various activities, national protocols, capacities, policies and procedures for the exchange of relevant information among agencies in both countries and with regional and international partners, relevant international organizations and the public were tested. In addition, bilateral and international cooperation instruments for responding to nuclear security events were assessed.

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 1540 (2004), Argentina has implemented the following measures.

(a) Proliferation Security Initiative

Argentina joined the Proliferation Security Initiative on 22 March 2005.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship represents Argentina in meetings of a political nature, while the relevant State agencies, such as the Ministry of Defence, the Argentine Coastguard and the Airport Security Police, participate at the expert level and take part in simulation exercises to ensure that they act in a coordinated manner in the event that a proliferation-related shipment is detected. The National Gendarmerie, the Directorate-General of Customs, the Federal Intelligence Agency and the Ministry of Justice have also been involved, with a view to creating a network for the circulation of information.

In December 2016, Argentina and the United States of America conducted a joint tabletop exercise in the framework of the Proliferation Security Initiative at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence of Argentina. Various State agencies with relevant portfolios took part in the exercise, including the Ministry of Defence, the Argentine Air Force, the Argentine Army, the Argentine Navy, the Ministry of Security, the Airport Security Police, the Argentine Coastguard, the Directorate-General of Customs, the Federal Intelligence Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, and the Ministry of Security of the city of Buenos Aires.

(b) Training in the identification of sensitive goods subject to control

Since 2005, Argentina has been working with the United States through its International Nonproliferation Export Control Program. Since then, joint training exercises on identifying and detecting sensitive goods have been held. Given their dual-use nature, such goods could be used for hostile purposes to manufacture or develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery (missiles).

The training courses are primarily intended for customs agents and members of the security forces manning border crossings or serving in ports and airports. The practical training gives participants an insight into the issue of weapons of mass destruction and how to identify and detect sensitive goods. Such goods are listed in Decree No. 603/92.

The training courses are also intended to raise participants' awareness of the main relevant agreements and international conventions to which Argentina is a party.

At present, Argentina has over 35 certified trainers from various agencies involved in the control of sensitive and dual-use exports, both in terms of licensing

and enforcement of the law. The instructors work for the following agencies: the Federal Administration of Public Revenue (Customs); the Nuclear Regulatory Authority; the National Commission for Space Activities; the National Commission for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Military Materiel; the Scientific and Technical Research Institute for Defence; the Ministry of Security; the Ministry of Energy and Mining (Subsecretariat for Nuclear Energy); and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.

The most recent training-of-trainers workshop on identifying and detecting sensitive goods was held in September 2017.